

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11 AID-20 HEW-08

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /151 W
----- 075856

R 091605Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 178

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

US MISSION USUN NY 2678

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 9/9/75

TAGS: PFOR UNRWA XF

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DECISION REGARDING UNRWA FINANCIAL
CRISIS

REF: CAIRO 6876

1. IN ADDITION TO ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DECISIONS REPORTED REFTTEL,
WE UNDERSTAND A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED CALLING FOR "UNIFIED" ARAB
STAND ON SUBJECT OF UNRWA'S DEFICIT AND REAFFIRMING RESPONSIBI-
LITY OF "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY" (I.E., EVERYBODY EXCEPT ARAB
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STATES) FOR SOLVING AGENCY'S ACUTE FINANCIAL DELEMMA. FOLLOWING

ARE TEXTUAL EXCERPTS FROM THIS RESOLUTION AS THEY APPEARED IN LOCAL PRO-CAIRO DAILY, AL ANWAR, SEPT. 6:

(A) "ARAB STATES SHALL TAKE UNIFIED POSITION RE HANDLING QUESTION OF UNRWA'S BUDGET DEFICIT. THIS POSITION WILL BE BASED ON REJECTION OF ANY TOTAL OR PARTIAL REDUCTIONS IN AGENCY SERVICES AND ON DEMAND THAT SUCH SERVICES INSTEAD BE INCREASED."

(B) "THIS POSITION WILL ALSO BE BASED ON REAFFIRMATION THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCING UNRWA FALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THOSE STATES WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISASTER WHICH BEFELL PALESTINIANS AND WHO SHOULD BE URGED TO DOUBLE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCY."

(C) "ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL REGARDS ANY EFFORT TO HAVE ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY THE OIL-RICH ONES, MAKE UP DEFICIT IN UNRWA'S BUDGET AS GRADUAL ATTEMPT TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNRWA FINANCING WHOLLY ON SHOULDER OF ARAB STATES AND TO EXEMPT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY--WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PALESTINIAN DISASTER IN FIRST PLACE--FROM ITS OBLIGATIONS TOWARD PALESTINIANS".

(D) IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, " ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DEMANDS THAT ARAB STATES STRIVE FOR CONTINUATION OF UNRWA'S MANDATE SO LONG AS PALESTINIAN QUESTION CONTINUES TO EXIST."

2. COMMENT: TENOR OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION IS FULLY CONSONANT WITH PUBLIC POSITIONS ADOPTED BY ARAB HOSTS GOVTS. AT AUG. 27 UNRWA ADCOM MEETING (BEIRUT 10302 NOTAL. IT SERVES TO REINFORCE OUR PESSIMISM THAT CONTINUING EFFORTS BY COMGEN RENNIE, UNSYG AND CONCERNED WESTERN GOVTS. TO EXTRACT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA FROM WEALTHY ARAB STATES WILL PRODUCE ANY GREATER RESULTS THAN THEY HAVE IN PAST.
GODLEY

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